GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1365
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
UNDERGROUND CABLES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise number of Gram Panchayats connected through underground cables in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the total number of complaints received regarding laying of cable-lines in the country;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to Gram Panchayats despite cable lines having been laid; and

(e) the details of the Panchayats, which have been affected as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Sir, BSNL has covered 5,21,911 Villages (including Gram Panchayats) with VPT facility out of total 5,93,601 Inhabited villages in the country as per Census 2001 as on 31.08.2008. Out of these 2,03,384 Village Public Telephones have been provided on wireline as per details in the attached Annexure - I.

The provisioning of Village Public Telephone facility in the villages (including Gram Panchayats) is being done as per the directives of USOF, DOT. BSNL has entered into an agreement in November 2004 with USO Fund for providing VPT facility to 66,822 villages including Gram Panchayats. Out of which 55,081 villages upto 31-08-2008, have already been provided with such facility predominantly through wireless media as it has wider coverage. Year wise detail of villages covered with VPT facility is attached as Annexure-II.

(b) & (c) No complaint regarding laying of cables for provisioning of Village Public Telephones [VPTs] has been received.

(d) & (e) The Village Public Telephone [VPT] facility is extended to the villages using wireless / wireline technologies based on the techno-commercial feasibility / viability thereof. BSNL has entered into an agreement in November 2004 with USO Fund for providing VPT facility to 66,822 villages including Gram Panchayats. Out of which 55,081 villages upto 31-08-2008, have already been provided with such facility. The remaining villages other than those covered under 'Bharat Nirman Programme' have been planned to be covered under the new USOF agreement.